

It's Time to Ensure Quality for Iowa's Young Children

***Statements by Registered Providers and
Parents on the Frontlines of Iowa's Child
Care System***



At their Most Critical Stage of Brain Development, Most of Iowa's Children are in Child Care



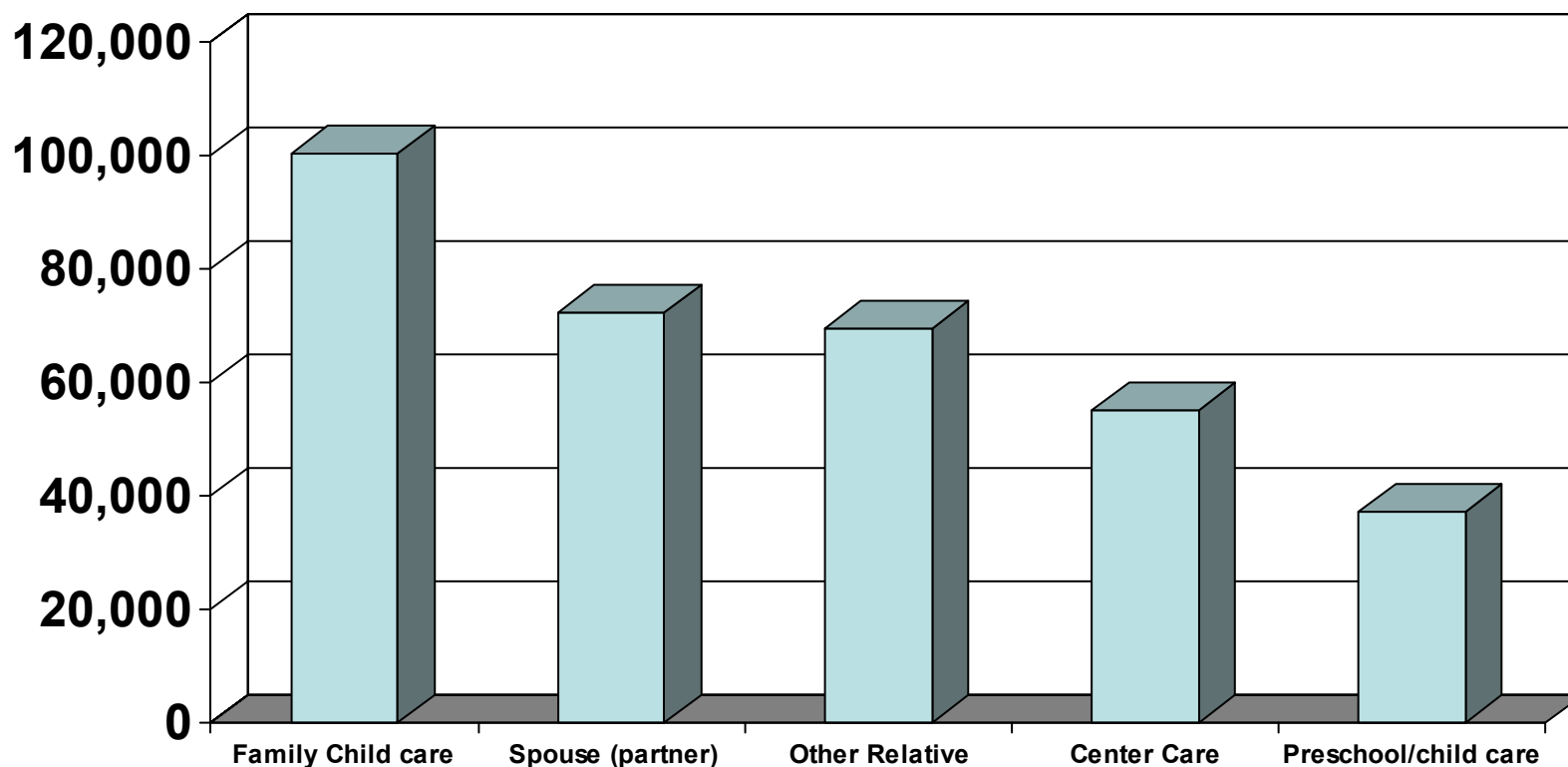
Six of every 10 Iowa children under age 5 are in some type of child care arrangement while their parent(s) work.

Studies show that birth to age 6 are the years of fastest learning in a person's life

The quality of infant and toddler care affects the architecture of the brain itself

Sources: "Incentives to Build Quality and Reduce Turnover in the Early Care and Education Workforce", Iowa State University Extension. "Child Care, Parents, and Work: the Economic Role of Child Care in Iowa", Iowa State University Extension. "Licensing and Public Regulation of Early Childhood Programs, National Association for the Education of Young Children"

The Majority of Iowa Families Are Choosing Family Child Care for their Children Under Age 6



Source: Child Care, Parents, and Work: The Economic Role of Child Care in Iowa. Iowa State University: Center for Family Policy

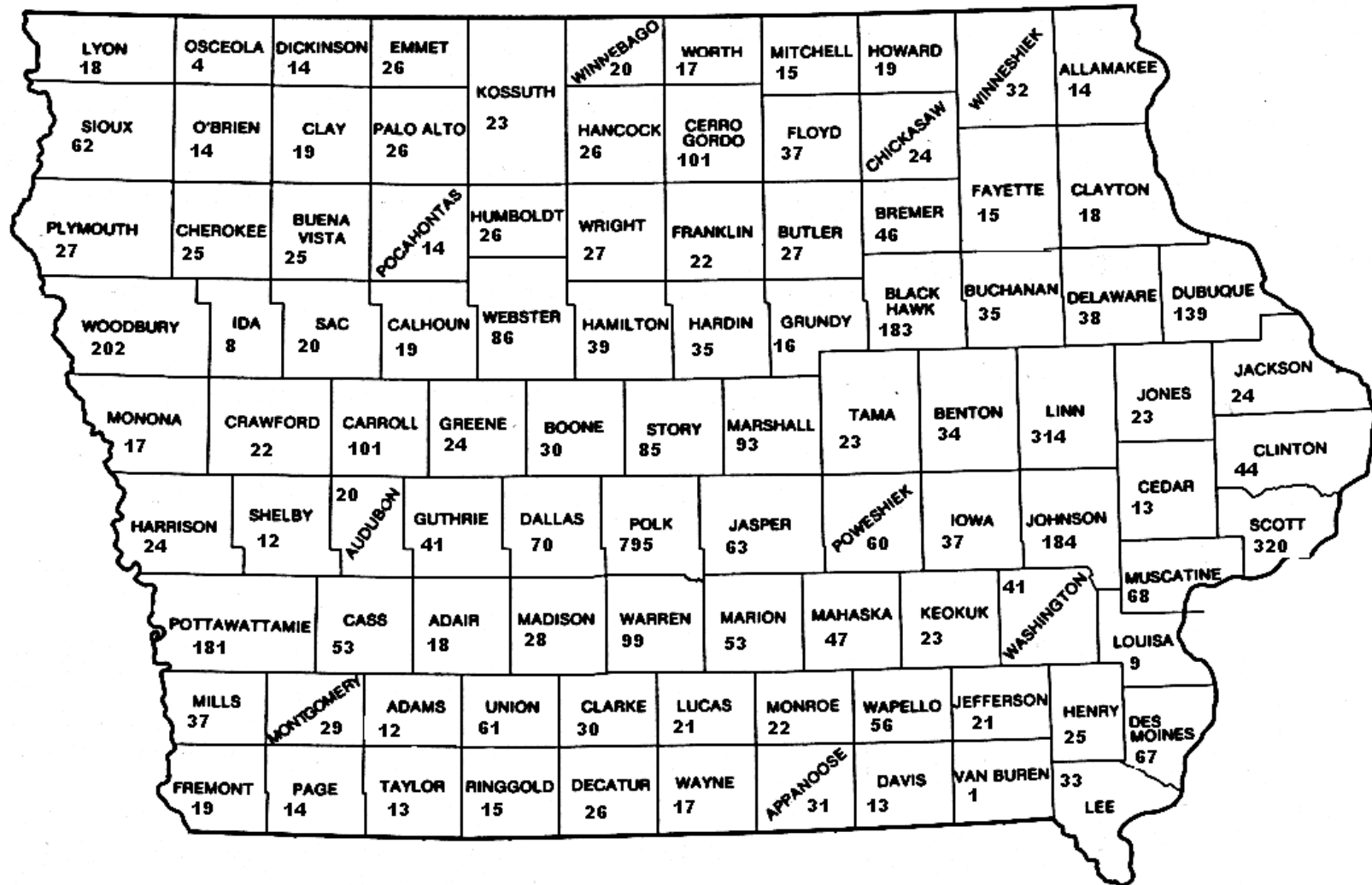
Family Child Care Offers Important Advantages for Young Children and Working Families

- **Continuity of care** – children are with the same trusted provider from birth through school-age
- **Small numbers of children** allow for individualized care and education
- **Year-round, flexible scheduling** - many workers do not have Monday-Friday, 9-5 shifts!
- **Conveniently located** in towns of all sizes
- **Multi-age learning** – siblings stay together

But... All Family Child Care is not the Same

	Registered (5,500 providers)	Unregistered
CPR, First Aid	Yes	?
Child Care Training	Yes	?
Child Abuse Background Checks	Yes	?
Safe Home Environment	Required to Meet Standards	?
Subject to Routine Inspection	Yes	No

Who are Iowa's Registered Family Child Care Providers?



We operate in all 99 counties, caring for up to 40,000 Children

Who are Iowa's Registered Family Child Care Providers?



Example: Matt and Denise Tapscott

- Operate “Almost Home Early Learning” in Des Moines
- Matt - Former Center Director
- Denise- BA in Education. Former teacher
- Parents of young children
- **Choose to run a family child care program because their experience has convinced them this is the best learning environment for children.**

Who are Iowa's Registered Family Child Care Providers?



Example: JoAnn Lewis

- Operates “ABC Family Child Care” in Davenport
- Masters Degree in Early Childhood Development, Minor in Child Psychology
- Recipient of the 2007 Maggie Tinsman Great Start Award for Excellence in Early Care and Education
- Single mother of three children
- Has owned / operated a registered family childcare program for 24 years

Who are Iowa's Registered Family Child Care Providers?



We have many differences:

We are from rural areas and cities

We are grandmothers, caring for our grandchildren

We are parents, who choose to stay home with their children

We are former nurses, educators, social workers, accountants

We have varying educations, from high school degrees to Masters degrees

We may be providing childcare for a year, or as our chosen profession

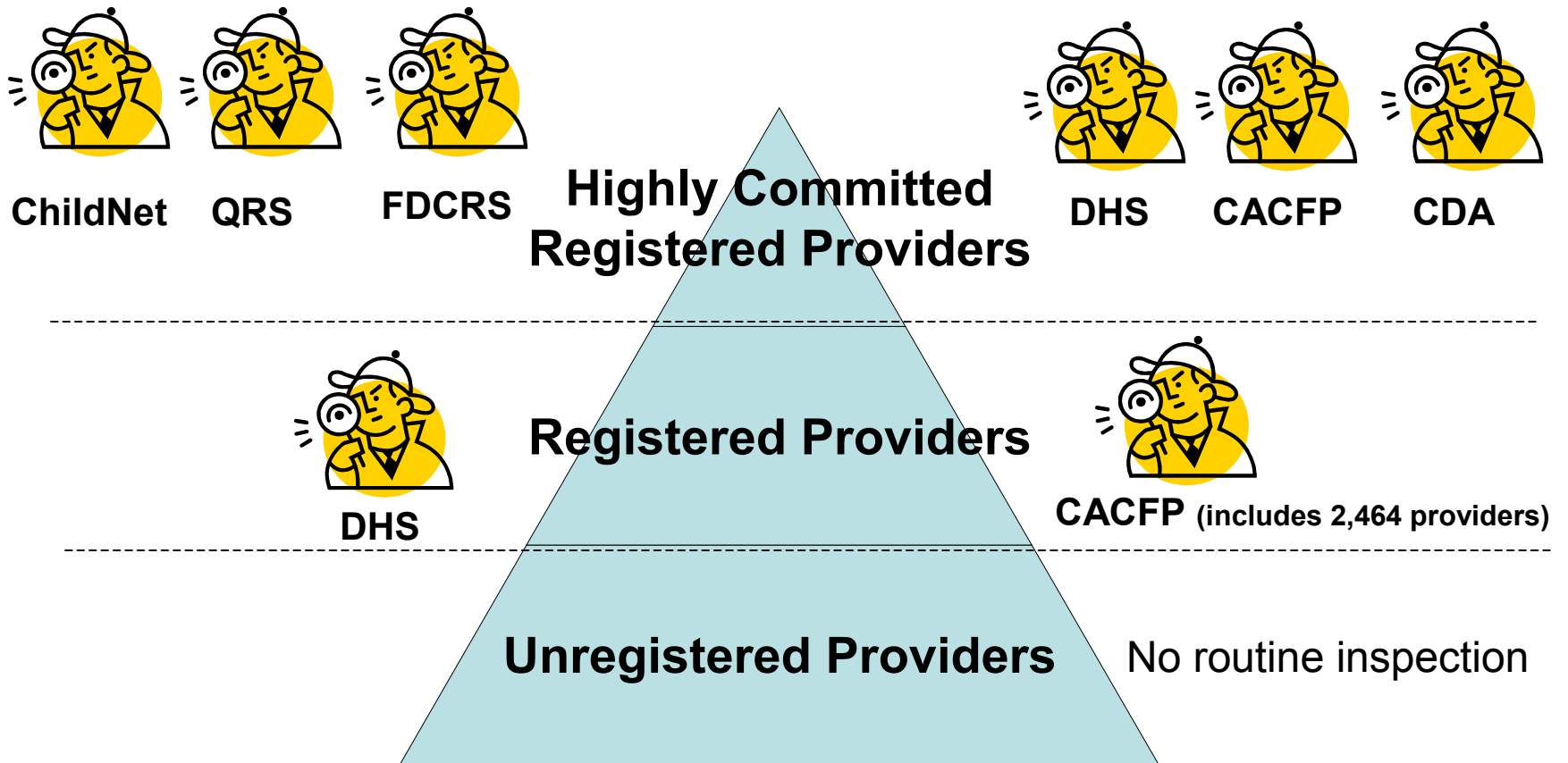
But we are all CPR/First Aid Certified. We are all mandatory child abuse reporters. We all attend annual training. We are all accountable to fundamental safety standards for the children we are paid to care for.

Why Does Requiring More Providers to Register Make Sense for Iowa's Children?

- Registration initiates the **potential for inspection**
- Required **training improves quality of care**
- **Iowa lags behind 40 states** in its registration requirements
- Lax standards cause **unfair competition**
- **Other small businesses are regulated** for public safety: animal boarding, restaurants...why not childcare?
- **All quality initiatives suffer when registration is lax**
- **There are certain, basic standards all children deserve.**

Registration Matters.

It is the first threshold for potential inspection.



Registration Matters.


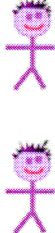




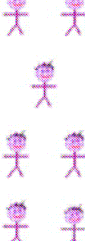

Required training improves the quality of care.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, research consistently identifies the factors most related to quality care as:

- Small groups of children
- **Higher levels of education and specialized preparation for caregivers**
- Higher rates of compensation and lower turnover rates

Registration Matters.

IA Lags Behind 40 States in Child Care Regulation.

1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children	7 Children	13 Children	Not Licensed
								
AL CT DE DC KS MD MA MI OK WA	CA* CO* FL* MN* SC*	GA HI ME MT NY NC VT* WY*	IL* KY NE NH ND OR* PA RI TX WV WI	AK AZ MO NV NM TN UT	AR IA IN MS VA	OH	SD	ID LA NJ
TOTAL NUMBER								
10	5	8	11	7	5	1	1	3

Source: National Child Care Information Center

Registration Matters.

Can We Build a Quality System without a Solid Foundation?



Registration Matters.

There are Basic Standards all Children Deserve

- ▶ Child abuse background checks
- ▶ Safe home environment
- ▶ CPR / First Aid
- ▶ Minimum Training in Child Care Fundamentals
- ▶ Subject to inspection

Beyond Registration: Stabilizing and Improving Our Child Care System

Based on studies and conversations with thousands of providers, the following factors contribute to turnover among quality providers:

1. Create Access to Health Insurance

- 28% of Registered Providers surveyed in early 2007 reported having no health insurance
- Child care is a high-risk profession for exposure to illness
- It's a public health issue – healthy children need healthy providers!
- It's an economic issue - each time a provider is sick, many working families are unable to do their jobs
- It's only fair – most child care providers work over 60 hours per week, year-round, educating and caring for young children.

Beyond Registration: Stabilizing and Improving Our Child Care System

Based on studies and conversations with thousands of providers, the following factors contribute to turnover among quality providers:

2. Improve Rates and Administration of the Child Care Assistance Program

- Rates lag behind: Current child care assistance rates are based on a 2004 market survey
- There are problems with notification of CCA eligibility status: 62% of providers surveyed in 2007 reported that they have provided free care, because of confusion about a child's eligibility

Beyond Registration: Stabilizing and Improving Our Child Care System

Based on studies and conversations with thousands of providers, the following factors contribute to turnover among quality providers:

3. Spend quality improvement dollars wisely: create a meaningful career ladder, with provider involvement

- There is a lack of coherence in the various quality measures by which providers have been judged (QRS Health and Safety standards are not always consistent with National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation standards and Family Day Care Rating Scale standards)
- Confusion about what will be recognized as an indicator of quality frustrates providers and drives them away from quality programs (CDA, ChildNet, Accreditation, PITC, Early Learning Standards, FDCRS, QRS, Best Practices...)
- Even achieving “gold standard” quality benchmarks brings little financial reward for Iowa providers

Beyond Registration: Stabilizing and Improving Our Child Care System

- ✓ **Bring Rates in the Child Care Assistance Program up to Current Market Levels**
- ✓ **Make Health Insurance Accessible to Providers**
- ✓ **Focus Funding on Meaningful Quality Programs, Created with Provider Involvement and Support**

